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Message Text

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17
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NEA-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

L-02 ARA-06 /080 W
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R 150518Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4834
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0332

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN, AS
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN CANDIDATES FOR UN CENTER ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 6805; (B) WELLINGTON 95 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAS ATTEMPTED TO CHECK OUT SUITABILITY OF TWO POSSIBLE CANDIDATES NAMED REF (A) FOR DIRECTOR OF NEWLY-ORGANIZED MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATION INFORMATION AND RESEARCH CENTER WITHIN UN SECRETARIAT.

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO IDENTIFY DONALD F. BRASH AT ANU OR ELSEWHERE BUT ASSUMES FROM REF (B) THAT BRASH NOW IN NEW ZEALAND.

3. RICHARD BUTLER, NOW HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RESEARCH SUB-SECTION, IS KNOWN TO EMBASSY OFFICERS. BUTLER, 32 YEAR OLD CAREER AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMAT WHO FORMERLY SERVED WITH AUST. DELEGATION TO UN, IS INTELLIGENT AND AMBITIOUS OFFICER. HOWEVER, EMBASSY IS AWARE OF NO SPECIAL
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QUALIFICATIONS FOR MNC POST FROM REVIEWING BUTLER'S BACK-

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GROUND. IN VIEW OF HIS RELATIVELY LIMITED EXPERIENCE, WE QUESTION WHETHER BUTLER IS SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR POSITION. MOREOVER, BASED ON LIMITED PAST CONTACTS WHICH EMBOFFS HAVE HAD WITH BUTLER, IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER HE WOULD TEND TO SHARE USG VIEWS ON MNC MATTERS. FOR THESE REASONS, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. NOT SUPPORT BUTLER CANDIDACY.

4. EMBASSY HAS A5 THIS STAGE NO ALTERNATIVE AUSTRALIAN CANDIDATES TO OFFER. GIVEN THE COMPARATIVELY CRITICAL ATTITUDE OF THE CURRENT GOA TOWARD FOREIGN CAPITAL, AND ITS DISPOSITION TO CRITICIZE MNC'S OPERATING IN AUSTRALIA, WE QUESTION WHETHER IT IS IN THE U.S. INTEREST ESPECIALLY TO SEEK AN AUSTRALIAN CANDIDATE AT THE PRESENT TIME.
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